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## Sides set to square off at South Mtn. Freeway meeting

by **Colleen Sparks** - Jun. 24, 2008 04:09 PM  
The Arizona Republic

Like a boxing championship match, both sides are preparing their moves for a South Mountain Freeway meeting Wednesday in Ahwatukee Foothills.

The Arizona Department of Transportation-led freeway study team accepted an invitation to attend a Lakewood Community Association meeting to discuss the proposed freeway at 6 p.m. at Pecos Community Center, 17010 S. 48th St.

State Rep. John McComish, R-Ahwatukee, and Sen. John Huppenthal, R-Chandler, will mediate. Phoenix Councilman Greg Stanton, who represents Ahwatukee, is also expected to attend.

Lakewood HOA board members and the other groups have carefully determined the format, said John Rodriguez, a Lakewood resident and South Mountain Citizens Advisory Team member.

"Much like a championship boxing match there have been parameters set," Rodriguez said. "This is going to be the fight of Ahwatukee's life."

The freeway would run along the Pecos Road alignment in Ahwatukee and cut through South Mountain Park. The advisory team will recommend whether the freeway should be built.

At Wednesday's meeting, freeway study team members will talk about traffic studies, how they will track wells in the freeway's path and other topics, as well as show a simulated flyover of the proposed freeway, Rodriguez said.

The public can submit written questions at the meeting that they'd like Huppenthal and McComish to ask, he said.

This meeting of the two groups had initially been planned for last month, but was canceled after the ADOT-led team decided not to attend.

After several Ahwatukee residents asked why the freeway team had canceled, Huppenthal and McComish helped to get the meeting rescheduled.

Though it's a Lakewood meeting, Rodriguez said anyone may attend and he expects many residents from the Foothills, Club West and Mountain Park Ranch HOAs.